

Career Photographer to Speak at SWOSU This Tuesday

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Todd Stewart will share his experiences as a photographer and artist this Tuesday, March 2, at 7 p.m. at the Southwestern Oklahoma State University Conference Center in Weatherford.

His presentation will center on the question, "Does place hold memory?" The evening presentation is free and open to the public. The event is part of the SWOSU Al Harris Library Showcase Series.

Stewart is assistant professor of photography and digital imaging at the University of Oklahoma. He began his career as a photographer working for advertising and design clients in Ohio and Georgia. Stewart's photographs have been exhibited widely throughout the United States, recognized by museum curators at the Whitney Museum of American Art and the Museum of Photographic Arts, as well as publication editors, including those from *Aperture* and the *New York Times Magazine*.

For many years Stewart's concerns as an artist have centered on the relationships between history, myth, and culture. Addressing these concerns, he completed work on the book *Placing Memory: A Photographic Exploration of Japanese American Internment*. Published in 2008 by the University of Oklahoma Press, his book is a contemporary examination of the 10 Japanese American internment sites of World War II.

His ongoing work focuses around three subjects: his children, Ethan and Lily, the death of Picher, Oklahoma, and the American Southwest. *The Garden* explores the developing relationship of his children with the world around them. *Picher* is the examination of Picher, Oklahoma, a national superfund site. A former center of lead and zinc mining, Stewart is documenting the ruin of this eastern Oklahoma town that is marred by ground contamination, a devastating tornado in 2008, and cave-ins which prompted a city-wide evacuation. His untitled American Southwest project examines the sustainability in the arid lands of this region.

For more information, contact Jason Dupree, head of public services, SWOSU Libraries, at 580.774.3031 or email jason.dupree@swosu.edu.